



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

**BLM** news  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

BURNS DISTRICT 28910 HWY 20 WEST HINES, OR 97738 (541) 573-4400 [www.or.blm.gov/burns/](http://www.or.blm.gov/burns/)

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### STEENS MOUNTAIN LOOP ROAD OPEN TO FISH LAKE CAMPGROUND

The lower portion of the Steens Mountain North Loop Road is now open to vehicle travel, announced Karla Bird, U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Burns District Andrews Resource Area Field Manager. Although heavy snow still exists on higher portions of the road, recent warm weather has melted the remaining snowdrifts in lower elevations permitting vehicle access to Fish Lake Campground. Access beyond the snowline will be blocked off until higher elevation drifts melt. For public safety and resource protection, visitors are asked to respect the roadblocks and limit travel on the Loop Road to areas *below* the snowline.

Current conditions on the lower portion of the North Loop Road are very rough and not recommended for low-clearance or recreational vehicles at this time. BLM maintenance crews are expected to begin grading and repairing various segments of the road over the next few weeks. Drivers should expect to encounter road maintenance equipment and slight delays once operations begin.

With access available on the Loop Road, Fish Lake Campground is now open and in full-service. Visitors will find 23 campsites, vault toilets, picnic tables, fire pits with grills, a day-use picnic area, boat ramp, and boat dock. Drinking water availability will be delayed until testing is completed during the week of June 9, 2003. Fishing, nonmotorized boating, cross-country hiking, and wildlife viewing are popular activities, and the Kiger Gorge and East Rim Overlooks are nearby. The gate just prior to Jackman Park Campground will continue to be closed until the remaining snow melts and/or is plowed, allowing maintenance crews to prepare the area for full use.

For more information on current Loop Road conditions or camping opportunities on Steens Mountain, visit the Burns District Office at 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon, call (541) 573-4400, weekdays, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., or visit our Web site at [www.or.blm.gov/Burns](http://www.or.blm.gov/Burns).

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